GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:270
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
CORONARY ARTERY DISEASES
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;RAMSHETH THAKUR;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coronary artery diseases are assuming epidemic proportions in India;

(b) if so, whether the drug-coated angioplasty stents are the most effective tool to permanently remove artery blockages;

(c) if so, whether the prohibitive prices of drug-coated angioplasty stents are a hindrance for their use in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to bring down the price of drug-coated stents;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and
(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(g): It is a fact that Coronary artery diseases are on the rise in India andalso occurring in younger (less than 40 years of age) persons.

The drug-coated Angioplasty Stents are the most effective tool to permanently remove artery blockages. Unlike the uncoated stents used commonly during angioplasty, the drug-coated stents which have recently come up lead to much lesser incidence of recurrence of re-blockage after angioplasty. The cost of a single drug coated is approximately Rs.1,37,000/- (Rupees one lakh thirty seven thousand only) as compared to about Rs.30,000/- - 50,000/- of conventional stents. The cost depends upon the number of stents to be used in a given case.

Drug coated angioplasty stents have just become available in the market and are experimental as long term results are not available.